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Plans to Thwart the Return of Tawfiq Abul Huda

[illegible]-336

21-23 June 1953

Amman

22 June 1953

C-3

30 June 1953

SECRET

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SECURITY INFORMATION

1. On 21 June 1953 a meeting was held in the Amman office of Sulayman Nabulsi. Present were Sulayman Nabulsi, Sadiq Tuqan, Abdullah Rimawi, Abdullah Nawas, and Jerhan Ishbailat.*

2. The group, led by Nabulsi, discussed the report that Tawfiq Abul Huda planned to return to Amman from Beirut on 23 June 1953 **. After a lengthy discussion, the group decided to encourage a mob to proceed to the airport and stage a demonstration of protest against Abul Huda's return to the Kingdom. The group also agreed that the best interests of the country would be served if Abul Huda were assassinated on the spot and indicated that they would determine how this could be accomplished.

3. The intentions of the group leaked to the Prime Minister Fawzi al Mulqi who summoned Col. Hadim Zaman of the Amman Police and instructed him to prevent any attempts to stage a demonstration.

Field Notes:

* Nabulsi, presently a merchant in Amman, was a cabinet minister during the 1951 regime of Prime Minister Samir Rifa'i. Ishbailat was a Palace Chamberlain of King Abdullah and is presently Mayor of Amman, having recently reinstated in this post after being discharged by Abul Huda. Tuqan, Rimawi and Nawas are Members of Parliament from West Jordan and were members of the anti-Abul Huda bloc in the Government.

** Abul Huda went to Beirut shortly after relinquishing the Government to Mulqi following the 2 May 1953 coronation of King Hussayn.

Field Comment:

Abul Huda did, in fact, return on schedule. Extreme security precautions were observed. Only Government officials, members of Abul Huda's family and close friends were allowed to approach the plane in which he returned. Other passengers on the plane were not allowed to disembark until the Abul Huda motorcade had left the airport.

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DATE 2005

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